

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FRAF ED BY PM/NPO:LVNOSENZO/DS

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OES-MR. BENGELSDORF

S/P-MR. KALICKI

C-MR. KELLY

EUR/RPE-MR. WOLF

EUR/CE-MR. BEIGEL

ACDA-MR. VAN DOREN

S/S- MR. MOFFAT

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O 181631Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 038854

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, PK

SUBJECT: SENSITIVE FACILITIES FOR PAKISTAN

REFTEL: STATE 38095

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, DECISION WAS REACHED OVER
WEEKEND TO CALL IN PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR HERE TO URGE
RECONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF REPROCESSING PLANT FROM
FRANCE AND HEAVY WATER PLANT FROM FRG; FRANCE, FRG AND
CANADA ARE TO BE NOTIFIED BEFOREHAND OF US CONCERN AND
INFORMED OF OUR INTENT TO CALL IN PAKISTANIS. DEPART-

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MENT DISCUSSION WITH FRG EMBASSY REPORTED REFTEL.

2. PM DIRECTOR VEST CALLED IN FRENCH COUNSELOR DE BELLESCIZE FEBRUARY 17 AND INFORMED HIM OF US POSITION, DRAWING FROM FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE HAVE IN PAST CONSULTATIONS DISCUSSED WITH FRENCH OFFICIALS PROPOSED SALE OF PILOT REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROPOSED SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT COVERING THIS PLANT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION BY IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS LATER THIS MONTH. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT RECENT REVIEW OF THE TOTALITY OF PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM HAS HEIGHTENED OUR CONCERN THAT THE GOP MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE CAPABILITY AS ADJUNCT TO ITS POWER PROGRAM.

--WE INTEND TO APPROACH GOP SHORTLY TO INFORM THEM OF OUR CONCERN, AND TO REQUEST THAT THEY RECONSIDER PURCHASE OF REPROCESSING PLANT. WE WILL EXPRESS PARALLEL CONCERN ON THE HEAVY WATER PLANT AND HAVE ALREADY INFORMED THE FRG OF THIS.

--WE BELIEVE THAT ASSESSMENT OF PAKISTANI PROGRAM MUST START FROM FACT THAT PAKISTAN HAS ONLY ONE SMALL POWER REACTOR, THE CANADIAN-SUPPLIED KANUPP, AND NO PROSPECT OF BRINGING LARGE-SCALE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM INTO OPERATION FOR VERY LONG TIME (ALTHOUGH IT DOES ASPIRE TO ACQUIRE AT LEAST ONE LWR IN THE NEAR TERM). IN THE ABSENCE OF EITHER RESOURCES FOR OR COHERENT AND CREDIBLE PLANT FOR SUBSTANTIALLY EXPANDING HER NUCLEAR REACTOR PROGRAM, ACQUIRING SUPPORT FACILITIES OF SENSITIVE CHARACTER DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO HAVE ECONOMIC VALIDITY.

--EVEN ASSUMING THAT THEY ARE NEEDED TO SUPPORT FUTURE REACTOR PROGRAM, THE MIX OF FACILITIES PAKISTAN SEEKS ALSO STRIKES US AS LACKING SOME CREDIBILITY. PAKISTAN IS AVOWEDLY DISSATISFIED WITH CANDU PLANT AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO BUILD ITS FUTURE PROGRAM AROUND LWR TECHNOLOGY, FOR WHICH HEAVY WATER PRODUCTION AND CANDU FABRICATION PLANTS ARE NOT SUITABLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, REPROCESSING

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IS NOT NEEDED IN HEAVY WATER FUEL CYCLE.

--THESE FACILITIES WOULD, MOREOVER, DUPLICATE ON SMALL SCALE THE PROGRAM WHICH LED TO INDIA'S EXPLOSION. IN CONJUNCTION WITH KANUPP REACTOR, THEY WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR NARROWLY FOCUSED PROGRAM TO ACQUIRE EXPLOSIVE OPTION.

--IT IS TRUE THAT ALL OF THESE FACILITIES WOULD BE SAFE-GUARDED. THE ECONOMIC COST OF WITHDRAWING FROM SAFE-GUARDS WOULD HOWEVER BE MINIMAL IN PAKISTAN'S CASE, AND POLITICAL AND SECURITY MOTIVATIONS TO COUNTER INDIA'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITY ARE HIGH.

--WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAKISTAN ARE AT AN ADVANCED STAGE. NEVERTHELESS, WE SUGGEST THAT IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING YOU CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF DEFERRING CONSIDERATION BY IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS UNTIL LATER MEETING. WE WOULD FRANKLY FIND OURSELVES IN DIFFICULT POSITION IF WE WERE ASKED TO APPROVE THIS AGREEMENT IN VIENNA, BECAUSE OF OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS AND OUR OPPOSITION TO SPREAD OF NATIONAL REPROCESSING FACILITIES PARTICULARLY WHERE HIGH RISKS OF PROLIFERATION ARE EVIDENT.

4. IN CONVERSATION, DE BELLEVILLE ASKED IF WE HAD ANY FIRM CORROBORATING EVIDENCE TO INDICATE PAKISTANI INTEREST IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS; VEST RESPONDED THAT IN FACT WE HAD SUCH EVIDENCE.

5. AS SEPARATE ACTION, VEST LATER CALLED DE NAZELLE TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE TALKING POINTS. DE NAZELLE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED QUESTION OF DEFERRAL OF IAEA BOARD ACTION ON FRENCH/PAKISTAN TRI-LATERAL WITH HIS MINISTER BUT NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

6. ON BOTH THIS ISSUE AND QUESTION OF SALE OF REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN, DE NAZELLE SAID HE PERSONALLY UNDER-STOOD POSITION THE US WAS TAKING. HOWEVER, HE FRANKLY THOUGHT THAT FRENCH RESPONSE WOULD NOT BE POSITIVE. FROM
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FRENCH VIEWPOINT, THEY DO NOT SEE PAKISTAN SITUATION AS DELICATE AS KOREA AND HE THEREFORE DID NOT EXPECT SAME ATTITUDES AT HIGH LEVELS REGARDING THIS SALE AS IN THE CASE OF KOREA. SECONDLY, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS (BY WHICH HE OBVIOUSLY MEANT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION) DE NAZELLE BELIEVED THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT WOULD FIND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO AGREE TO SECOND KOREA SO SOON AFTER THE FIRST. AS FINAL POINT, HE SAID THAT PAKISTANI PLANT, UNLIKE THE KOREAN PLANT, HAS BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION SINCE 1972 AND HENCE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FEELS A MUCH GREATER COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON SALE.

7. FOR THESE REASONS, DE NAZELLE SAID HE DID NOT THINK FRENCH WOULD AGREE TO EVEN DELAYING THE IAEA ACTION, RECOGNIZING THAT US WOULD HAVE TO TAKE AN UNHELPFUL

POSITION. HE SAID THEY WOULD GET BACK TO US IN DUE COURSE ON IAEA QUESTION.

8. AS RELATED ACTION, CANADIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR NUTTING WAS ALSO INFORMED FEBRUARY 17 IN DETAIL BY DEPARTMENT (PM) OF INTENDED APPROACH TO PAKISTAN AND NOTIFICATION OF FRG AND FRANCE. NUTTING SAID THAT CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY APPROACHED PAKISTANIS, SUGGESTING DEFERRAL OF IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS CONSIDERATION OF TRILATERAL AGREEMENT COVERING REPROCESSING PLANT, AND CANADIAN EMBASSY PARIS HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE SIMILAR APPROACH TO GOF. NUTTING HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT THAT CANADA HAD FORMALLY INDICATED THEIR CONCERN TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT OVER REPROCESSING SALE AT TIME OF DELIVERING NOTE ON NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS AGREEMENT (JANUARY 27).

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